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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FOR AF DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY HARROP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ML
SUBJ: FY 79 AND FY 80 BUDGETED ASSISTANCE FOR AFRICA: MALI

REF: (A) STATE 224147, (B) BAMAKO 2857

1. SUMMARY: TOTAL $16.5 MILLION FOR FY 79 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IS A SQUEEZE, WITH THREE IMPORTANT PROJECTS SLOWED DOWN (THOUGH NOT STOPPED) AS A RESULT. ON OTHER HAND, PROPOSED $17.0 MISSION FY 80 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE LEVEL WOULD TOTALLY ELIMINATE OUR LARGEST PROPOSED, KEY PROJECT (KAYES-NIORO ROAD). FMS OF $350,000 FOR FY 80, A NEW FACTOR IN MALI, IS WELCOME. CUT OF ALREADY MODEST IMETP PROPOSAL FOR FY 79 (AS WE READ REFTEL A) IN HALF WOULD GUT THE PROGRAM AND HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT UPON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE RULING MILITARY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ALL EFFORTS TO RESTORE FY 79 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AND ESPECIALLY FY 80 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND THE IMETP PROGRAM, TO THE PREVIOUS REQUEST LEVELS. END SUMMARY.

2. FY 1979. A TOTAL OF $16.5 MILLION COULD BE ACCOMMODATED WITH SOME SQUEEZING, THOUGH THERE WOULD BE A DISTINCT NEGATIVE EFFECT UPON TWO MAJOR CONTINUING PROJECTS AND ONE NEWLY STARTED
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ONE. THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO BE CUT SOME $4.3 MILLION FROM THE $8.7 MILLION FORESEEN. COMBINED WITH PRACTICALLY NO FUNDING FOR FY 1978, THIS COULD SLOW OUR MOVE INTO THE NEW LANDS PHASE OF THE PROJECT AS WELL AS DELAY THE START OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH COMPONENT. OPERATION MILS WOULD HAVE TO DROP BY HALF A MILLION, WHICH WOULD LIKELY SLOW DOWN PROGRESS. ACTION BLE, JUST STARTED WITH FY 1978 MONEY, WOULD ALSO TAKE

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ABOUT A HALF MILLION DOLLAR CUT, AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS MIGHT HAVE TO BE STRETCHED OUT.

B. FY 1980. A TOTAL OF ONLY $17.0 MILLION WOULD WREAK HAVOC ON OUR EXPANSION/PROPOSED BUDGET OF $32 MILLION. OUR LARGEST FY 1980 PROJECT, RECONSTRUCTION OF THE KEY 250 KM KAYES-NIORO ROAD ($14 MILLION), WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED. (THIS ON TOP OF THE ALREADY DECIDED POSTPONEMENT OF INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, THAT SIMPLY WOULDN'T FIT INTO THE $32 MILLION BUDGET IN ANY FORM.) THIS ALL-WEATHER ROAD WILL OPEN IMPORTANT AREAS OF THE REMOTE, GRAIN-DEFICIT FIRST REGION, TO READY CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND MAKE POSSIBLE THE STAGING OF A NUMBER OF EXISTING AND PLANNED DONOR-FUNDED DEVELOP-MENT PROJECTS. WE EXPECT TO UNDERTAKE THE RECONSTRUCTION BY CONTRACT, AND THE PROJECTED TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED MUST BE IN HAND AT THE START. A DELAY WOULD ALSO PROBABLY JEOPARDIZE THE VALIDITY OF THE COST ESTIMATES THAT WE EXPECT FROM THE FY 1979-FUNDED DESIGN OF THE ROAD AND LEAD TO A MORE COSTLY PROJECT IN THE FUTURE. THE KAYES-NIORO ROAD HAS ALREADY SUFFERED SEVERAL DELAYS; WE CONSIDER IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION FUNDS NOT BE DELAYED BEYOND FY 1980.

C. NOTE ON FY 1978. OUR LATEST MALI COUNTRY TOTAL IS $11.160 MILLION, PER STATE 211940 (AIDAC).

3. PL-480. NOT APPLICABLE TO MALI.
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4. SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE. NOT APPLICABLE TO MALI.

5. FOREIGN MILITARY SALES. PROPOSED $350,000 FOR FY 80 IS UP FROM ZERO FY 79 AND PRECEDING, AND THUS IS WELCOME EVEN AT THIS MODEST LEVEL.

6. MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (IMETP). WE GATHER THE $50,000 AMOUNT PROPOSED FOR MALI IS FOR FY 79. THIS CUT IN HALF OF ALREADY MINIMAL PROPOSED PROGRAM WOULD EFFECTIVELY EVISCERATE OUR PROPOSAL, WHICH IS TO PROVIDE A LANGUAGE LABORATORY, ONE U.S. INSTRUCTOR, AND TRAINING OF THREE MALIANS IN THE U.S. THE IMETP PROPOSAL FOR MALI RESPONDS DIRECTLY TO MALIAN REQUEST AT HIGH LEVEL AND IMPLEMENTING IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN US MODEST BUT IMPORTANT ACCESS TO THE RULING MILITARY. DRASTIC REDUCTION TO $50,000 IS TANTAMOUNT TO ELIMINATING A MODEST BUT MEANINGFUL PROGRAM.THIS WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR OVER-ALL RELATIONS WITH GRM AS WELL AS RULE OUT IMPROVED ACCESS TO MILITARY.
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